

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

POWER SUPPLY AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 2003-7872, filed February 7, 2003, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a power supply and a control method thereof, and more particularly to a power supply and a control method thereof for reducing the number of switching times of a switching unit of an inverting part.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a circuit of a conventional power supply for supplying AC power to a load 1. As shown in FIG. 1, the power supply comprises a rectifying circuit (not shown) to rectify a commercial AC power (110V/220V) to DC power, an inverting part 3 receiving the DC power rectified by the rectifying circuit, inverting the DC power to AC power having various frequencies and supplying the AC power to the load 1, such as a motor, and a switching controller 500 controlling switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the inverting part 3 to open and to close.

[0004] The rectifying circuit generally comprises a diode rectifying circuit (not shown) rectifying the commercial AC power into DC power, and a capacitor (not shown) smoothing the DC power rectified by the diode rectifying circuit and transmitting the smoothed and rectified DC power to the inverting part 3.

[0005] The inverting part 3, which is connected to two ends of the rectifying circuit, receives the DC power rectified and smoothed by the rectifying circuit, then inverts the DC power to the AC power having the various frequencies and supplies the AC power having the various frequencies to the load 1.

[0006] The inverting part 3 comprises a full bridge circuit having a first bridge 10 and a second bridge 20 provided with respective pairs of switching units 11a and 11b, and 21a and 21b serially connected to each other. Diodes 13a, 13b, 23a and 23b, are respectively, connected to opposite ends of the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20, the first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20 being in parallel. Tap nodes 14 and 24 between the respective pairs of switching units 11a and 11b, and 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20 are connected to opposite ends of the load 1 and allow the AC power to be supplied to the load 1 by opening and closing of each of the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b.

[0007] Transistors are used as the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20. Gate ends of the transistors 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b are, respectively, connected to switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b. The respective switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b turn on and turn off the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b by transmitting voltages corresponding to logical values of switching control signals (AP, BP, AN and BN) outputted from the switching controller 500 to the gate ends of the transistors 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b.

[0008] FIG. 2 illustrates an internal configuration of the conventional switching controller 500. As shown in FIG. 2, the switching controller 500 comprises a comparison signal generating part 132 outputting a voltage compared signal S by comparing a control voltage signal V_{ab} transmitted from a control voltage signal generating part 140 with a comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} transmitted from a comparison voltage signal generating part 150, a dead time generating part 134 allowing the voltage compared signal S to change and outputting a first switching signal SN and a second switching signal SP having dead times between each other. Further, the control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted by the control voltage signal generating part 140 is a control signal to control electric power outputted to the load 1 through the inverting part 3, and is

a sinusoidal waveform (refer to FIGS. 3A and 3B). Also, the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} outputted from the comparison voltage signal generating part 150 is a chopping waveform having a predetermined size and a predetermined period (refer to FIGS. 3A and 3B).

[0009] The comparison signal generating part 132 compares the control voltage signal V_{ab} of the control voltage signal generating part 140 with the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} of the comparison voltage signal generating part 150. The comparison signal generating part 132 outputs a voltage compared signal S having a first logical value "1" when a magnitude of the control voltage signal V_{ab} is greater than that of the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} , and outputs a voltage compared signal S having a second logical value "0" when the magnitude of the control voltage signal V_{ab} is smaller than that of the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} .

[0010] The dead time generating part 134 changes the voltage compared signal S outputted from the comparison signal generating part 132 to the first switching signal SN and the second switching signal SP having the dead time between each other and outputs the first and second switching signals SN and SP. The dead time generating part 134 provides the first switching signal SN and the second switching signal SP having logical values opposite to each other. Further, a waveform of the first switching signal SN is an identical waveform to that of the voltage-compared signal S. Further, dead times are non-operating times set up to prevent a short circuit, which occurs when the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20 are coincidentally turned on.

[0011] The first switching signal SN outputted from the dead time generating part 134 is outputted as the switching control signals BP and AN of an upper arm switching unit 11a of the first bridge 10 and a lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20. The second switching signal SP outputted from the dead time generating part 134 is outputted as the switching control signals AP and BN of an upper arm switching unit 21a of the second bridge 20 and a lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10.

[0012] The switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN outputted from the switching controller 500 are transmitted to the switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b of the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b. The respective switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b turn on and turn off the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b by applying voltages to

the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b according to the inputted switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN. Further, the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10 and the upper arm switching unit 21a of the second bridge 20 are coincidentally turned on by the switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN. When the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10 and the upper arm switching unit 21a of the second bridge 20 are coincidentally turned on, the upper arm switching unit 11a of the first bridge 10 and the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 are coincidentally turned off.

[0013] In a control method of the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b by the conventional switching controller 500, to supply AC power to the load 1, the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20 are turned on and turned off corresponding to a waveform of the voltage compared signal S shown in FIG. 3B, such that switching operations are frequent, thereby causing a power loss.

[0014] Further, to remove heat generated due to frequent switching of the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b, a size of a heat sink is increased. Accordingly, cost of a power supply is increased.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0015] Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide a power supply to reduce a number of switching times of switching units of an inverting part.

[0016] Additional aspects and/or advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

[0017] The above and/or other aspects are achieved by providing a power supply having a rectifying circuit rectifying a commercial AC power; an inverting part inverting the power rectified by the rectifying circuit to AC power and supplying the AC power to a load, and including a first bridge and a second bridge connected, in parallel, to opposite ends of the rectifying circuit and having respective pairs of switching units serially connected to each other, comprising: a control voltage signal generating part outputting a control voltage signal alternating positive and negative values to control the AC power supplied from the inverting part to the load; a switching

controller determining a sign of the control voltage signal, controlling, when the control voltage signal is determined to be the positive value, one of the switching units of the first bridge to turn off and a remaining one of the switching units of the first bridge to turn on, and controlling the switching units of the second bridge to alternately turn on and turn off corresponding to which one of an absolute value of the control voltage signal and an absolute value of a predetermined comparison voltage signal is greater.

[0018] In an aspect, the switching controller controls, when the control voltage signal is determined to be a negative value, one of the switching units of the second bridge is off and the remaining one of the switching units of the second bridge is on, and the switching units of the first bridge to alternately turn on and turn off corresponding to which one of the absolute value of the control voltage signal and the absolute value of the predetermined comparison voltage signal is greater.

[0019] In an aspect, the switching controller comprises a comparison signal generating part outputting a voltage compared signal having a logical value corresponding to a determination result by determining which one of absolute values of the control voltage signal and the comparison voltage signal is greater; a sign signal generating part outputting a control voltage sign signal having a logical value corresponding to positive and negative signs of the control voltage signal; and a switching control signal generating part logically calculating the voltage compared signal and the control voltage sign signal and outputting switching control signals to turn on and turn off the respective switching units of the first bridge and the second bridge.

[0020] In an aspect, the switching control signal generating part comprises: a dead time generating part receiving the voltage compared signal and outputting a first switching signal and a second switching signal having a dead time relative to the voltage compared signal; and a logical operation circuit part logically calculating the control voltage sign signal, the first switching signal and the second switching signal and outputting the switching control signals.

[0021] In an aspect, the first switching signal and the second switching signal outputted from the dead time generating part have logical values opposite to each other.

[0022] In an aspect, the sign signal generating part outputs a control voltage sign signal having a logical value "1" when the control voltage signal is a positive value, and outputs a control voltage sign signal having a logical value "0" when the control voltage signal is a negative value.

[0023] In an aspect, the respective switching units of the first bridge and the second bridge are, respectively, divided into an upper arm switching unit connected to a output voltage end of the rectifying circuit and a lower arm switching unit connected to an input voltage end of the rectifying circuit, and the logical operation circuit part outputs the switching control signals allowing the lower arm switching unit of the first bridge to turn on, the upper arm switching unit of the first bridge to turn off, the upper arm switching unit of the second bridge to turn on and turn off corresponding to the first switching signal, and the lower arm switching unit of the second bridge to turn on and turn off corresponding to the second switching signal, while the control voltage sign signal has the logical value "1".

[0024] In an aspect, the logical operation circuit part outputs the switching control signals allowing the lower arm switching unit of the second bridge to turn on, the upper arm switching unit of the second bridge to turn off, the upper arm switching unit of the first bridge to turn on and turn off corresponding to the first switching signal, and the lower arm switching unit of the first bridge to turn on and turn off corresponding to the second switching signal, while the control voltage sign signal has the logical value "0".

[0025] The above and/or other aspects are achieved by providing a control method of a power supply having a rectifying circuit rectifying a commercial AC power; an inverting part inverting the power rectified by the rectifying circuit to AC power and supplying the AC power to a load, and including a first bridge and a second bridge connected to opposite ends of the rectifying circuit and having respective pairs of switching units serially connected to each other, comprising: generating a control voltage signal alternating and having a negative value and a positive value to control the AC power supplied from the inverting part to the load; determining whether the control voltage signal is a positive value or a negative value; outputting a voltage compared signal having a logical value corresponding to which one of absolute values of the control voltage signal and the voltage compared signal is greater; and controlling one of the switching units of the first bridge to turn on, a remaining one of the switching units of the first

bridge to turn off, and the switching units of the second bridge to alternately turn on and turn off corresponding to the voltage compared signal when the control voltage signal is determined to be the positive value.

[0026] In an aspect, the control method of the power supply further comprises controlling one of the switching units of the second bridge to turn off, the remaining one of the switching units of the second bridge to turn on, and the switching units of the first bridge to alternately turn on and turn off corresponding to the voltage compared signal when the control voltage signal is determined to be the negative value.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0027] These and/or other aspects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompany drawings of which:

[0028] FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a circuit of a general power supply;

[0029] FIG. 2 is a control block diagram of a conventional switching controller;

[0030] FIGS. 3A and 3B are views illustrating waveforms of respective signals according to a control method of a conventional power supply;

[0031] FIG. 4A is a view illustrating a circuit of a power supply according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0032] FIG. 4B is a control block diagram of a switching controller according to the embodiment of the present invention;

[0033] FIG. 5 is a view illustrating a logic circuit according to the embodiment of a switching control signal generating part of the switching controller in FIG. 4B;

[0034] FIGS. 6A to 6D and 7A to 7G are views illustrating waveforms of respective signals of a control method of a power supply according to the embodiment of the present invention; and

[0035] FIG. 8 is a table for logical expressions of switching control signals of the power supply according to the embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0036] Reference will now be made in detail to the embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout. The embodiments are described below in order to explain the present invention by referring to the figures.

[0037] A power supply according to an embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, comprises a rectifying circuit (not shown) rectifying a commercial AC power into DC power; an inverting part 3 receiving the DC power rectified by the rectifying circuit, inverting the DC power to AC power having various frequencies and supplying the AC power having the various frequencies to a load 1, such as a motor; and a switching controller 5 (refer to FIGS. 4A and 4B) controlling switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the inverting part 3 to open and to close.

[0038] The inverting part 3, which is connected to opposite ends of the rectifying circuit, inverts the DC power rectified by the rectifying circuit to the AC power having the various frequencies and supplies the AC power to the load 1.

[0039] The inverting part 3 comprises a first bridge 10 and a second bridge 20 having respective pairs of the switching units 11a and 11b; and 21a and 21b serially connected to each other. Diodes 13a, 13b, 23a and 23b are, respectively, connected to opposite ends of the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20 in parallel.

[0040] Transistors are used as the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20. Gate ends of the transistors (i.e., switching units) 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b are connected to switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b. The respective switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b turn on and turn off the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b by transmitting voltages corresponding to logical values of switching control signals AP,

BP, AN and BN outputted from the switching controller 5 to the gate ends of the transistors 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b.

[0041] Hereinafter, the switching units 11a and 21a of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20, respectively, connected to a voltage output end P of the rectifying circuit are defined as upper arm switching units, and the switching units 11b and 21b of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20, respectively, connected to a voltage input end N of the rectifying circuit are defined as lower arm switching units.

[0042] A first tap node 14 between the upper arm switching unit 11a and the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10, and a second tap node 24 between the upper arm switching unit 21a and the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 are connected to respective ends of the load 1. When the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b are turned on and turned off, the AC power is supplied to the load 1 through the first and second tap nodes 14 and 24.

[0043] The switching controller 5 determines whether a control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted from a control voltage signal generating part 40 is a positive voltage or a negative voltage. Further, when the control voltage signal V_{ab} is determined to be the positive voltage, the switching controller 5 controls one of the upper arm switching unit 11a and the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10 to turn off, and a remaining one of the upper arm switching unit 11a and the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10 to turn on, and controls the upper arm switching unit 21a and the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 to alternately turn on and turn off according to which one of absolute values of the control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted from the control voltage signal generating part and a comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} outputted from a comparison voltage signal generating part 50 is greater.

[0044] Further, when the control voltage signal V_{ab} is determined to be a negative voltage, the switching controller 5 controls one of the upper arm switching unit 21a and the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 to turn off, and the remaining one of the upper arm switching unit 21a and the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 to turn on, and controls the upper arm switching unit 11a and the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge

10 to alternately turn on and turn off according to which one of the absolute values of the control voltage signal V_{ab} and the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} is greater.

[0045] Further, the control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted from the control voltage signal generating part 40 is a control signal to control the AC power supplied from the inverting part 3 to the load 1, which may be a sine waveform alternating having positive and negative signs may be an AC power of a predetermined voltage. Further, the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} outputted from the comparison voltage signal generating part 50 may be a chopping waveform (refer to FIGS. 6A and 6D) and may be an AC power of a predetermined voltage.

[0046] Hereinafter, an embodiment of a power supply according to the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 4A through 8.

[0047] The switching controller 5 comprises a comparison signal generating part 32 outputting a voltage compared signal S_{ab} having a logical value corresponding to a determination result by determining which one of absolute values of the control voltage signal V_{ab} and of the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} is greater, a sign signal generating part 31 outputting a control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having a logical value corresponding to positive and negative signs of the control voltage signal V_{ab} , and a switching control signal generating part 33 outputting the switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN to turn on and turn off the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20 by logically calculating the voltage compared signal S_{ab} and the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$.

[0048] The comparison signal generating part 32 compares the magnitudes of the control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted from the control voltage signal generating part 40 and of the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} outputted from the comparison voltage signal generating part 50. Further, the comparison signal generating part 32 is provided to output the voltage compared signal S_{ab} by comparing the magnitudes of absolute values of the control voltage signal V_{ab} and the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} . Herein, a rectifying part 36 may be provided in the switching controller 5, so that the control voltage signal V_{ab} and the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} outputted from the control voltage signal generating part 40 and the comparison voltage

signal generating part 50 may be rectified to have a waveform shown in FIG. 6C and may be inputted to the comparison signal generating part 32.

[0049] The comparison signal generating part 32 outputs a voltage compared signal S_{ab} having a logical value "1" when the absolute value of the inputted control voltage signal V_{ab} is greater than that of the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} , and outputs a voltage compared signal S_{ab} having a logical value "0" when the absolute value of the inputted control voltage signal V_{ab} is smaller than that of the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} .

[0050] The sign signal generating part 31 determines whether the control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted from the control voltage signal generating part 40 is the positive value or the negative value. Further, the sign signal generating part 31 outputs a control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having a logical value "1" when the control voltage signal V_{ab} is the positive value, and outputs a control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having a logical value "0" when the control voltage signal V_{ab} is the negative value.

[0051] The switching control signal generating part 33 comprises a dead time generating part 34 receiving the voltage compared signal S_{ab} and outputting a first switching signal S_{abP} and a second switching signal S_{abN} having dead times, and a logical operation circuit part 35 logically calculating the voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$, the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} , and outputting the switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN.

[0052] As shown in FIG. 5, the dead time generating part 34 comprises a plurality of resistors 34a, a plurality of condensers 34b and a plurality of NOT gates 34c. Further, with reference to FIG. 7A to 7E, the first switching signal S_{abP} , for which the logical value thereof is the same as that of the voltage compared signal S_{ab} , has a waveform having a dead time relative to the voltage compared signal S_{ab} and of the second switching signal S_{abN} , and for which the logical value of the first switching signal S_{abP} is opposite to that of the voltage compared signal S_{ab} , has a waveform having a dead time relative to the voltage compared signal S_{ab} .

[0053] The logical operation circuit part 35 outputs the switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN to turn on and to turn off the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20 by logically calculating the control voltage sign signal

$\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ outputted from the sign signal generating part 31, and the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} outputted from the dead time generating part 34. Further, the switching control signal AP is a control signal to turn on and to turn off the upper arm switching unit 21a of the second bridge 20, the switching control signal BP is a control signal to turn on and to turn off the upper arm switching unit 11a of the first bridge 10, the switching control signal AN is a control signal to turn on and to turn off the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20, and the switching control signal BN is a control signal to turn on and to turn off the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10.

[0054] FIG. 8 illustrates a table for logical expressions of the respective switching control signals AP, BP, AN, and BN. As shown in FIG. 8, the switching control signal AP is outputted as a logical sum of an inverse of a logical value of the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ and a logical value of the first switching signal S_{abP} , the switching control signal BP is outputted as a logical sum of the logical value of the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ and the logical value of the first switching signal S_{abP} , the switching control signal AN is outputted as a logical product of the logical value of the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ and a logical value of the second switching signal S_{abN} , and the switching control signal BN is outputted as a logical product of an inverse of the logical value of the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ and the logical value of the second switching signal S_{abN} . For example, when the logical value of the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ is "1", the switching control signals BP and BN have, respectively, logical values "1" and "0", the switching control signal AP has the same waveform as the first switching signal S_{abP} , and the switching control signal AN has the same waveform as the second switching signal S_{abN} (refer to FIG. 7B to 7G). Further, when a logical value of the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ is "0", the switching control signals AP and AN have, respectively, logical values "1" and "0", the switching control signal BP has the same waveform as the first switching signal S_{abP} , and the switching control signal BN has the same waveform as the second switching signal S_{abN} .

[0055] The respective switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN outputted from the logical operation circuit part 35 are inputted to the switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b. The switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b turn on and turn off the respective switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b corresponding to the switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN.

[0056] Hereinafter, with the above configuration, a control process for the power supply according to the embodiment of the present invention will be described.

[0057] While the control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted from the control voltage signal generating part 40 is a positive value, the sign signal generating part 31 outputs a control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having a logical value "1". Further, the comparison signal generating part 32 outputs the voltage compared signal S_{ab} by comparing absolute values of the control voltage signal V_{ab} and the comparison voltage signal V_{TRI} (refer to FIG. 6D). The dead time generating part 34 of the switching control signal generating part 33 receives the voltage compared signal S_{ab} from the comparison signal generating part 32 and outputs the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} (refer to FIG. 7B AND 7C). Further, the logical operation circuit part 35 receives the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign } V_{ab}$, the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} and outputs the switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN having logical values as described above by logically calculating the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign } V_{ab}$, the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} (refer to FIGS. 7D to 7G). The respective switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN outputted from the logical operation circuit part 35 are inputted to the respective switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b. The switching drivers 12a, 12b, 22a and 22b turn on and turn off the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b by outputting voltages corresponding to the inputted switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN. Further, while the logical value of the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ is "1", the upper arm switching unit 11a of the first bridge 10 is turned off by the switching control signal BP having a logical value "1", and the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10 is maintained on by the switching control signal BN having a logical value "0". Further, the upper arm switching unit 21a and the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 are inversely and alternately turned on and turned off, respectively, corresponding to the waveforms of the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} , respectively, having a logical value opposite to each other. Thus, the inverting part 3 outputs a voltage alternately having "0" and a voltage V_{PN} supplied from the rectifying circuit through the first and second tap nodes 14 and 24 of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20.

[0058] Further, while the control voltage signal V_{ab} outputted from the control voltage signal generating part 40 is the negative value, the sign signal generating part 31 outputs the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having a logical value "0". Further, the comparison signal generating part 32 outputs the voltage-compared signal S_{ab} , and the dead time generating part 34 outputs the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} . The logical operation circuit part 35 outputs the switching control signals AP, BP, AN and BN by logically calculating the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$, the first switching signal S_{abP} , and the second switching signal S_{abN} . While the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ has a logical value "0", the upper arm switching unit 21a of the second bridge 20 is turned off by the switching control signal AP having a logical value "1", the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 is maintained on by the switching control signal AN having a logical value "0". Further, the upper arm switching unit 11a and the lower arm switching unit 11b of the first bridge 10 alternately turn on and turn off, respectively, corresponding to the waveforms of the first switching signal S_{abP} and the second switching signal S_{abN} . Thus, the inverting part 3 outputs a voltage alternately having "0" and a voltage value which has a same absolute value but an opposite sign, compared with the voltage V_{PN} supplied from the rectifying circuit through the first and second tap nodes 14 and 24 of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20.

[0059] The sign signal generating part 31 is provided to output the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having the logical value "1" when the control voltage signal V_{ab} is the positive value, and to output the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having the logical value "0" when the control voltage signal V_{ab} is the negative value. However, the sign signal generating part 31 may be provided to output the control voltage sign signal $\text{Sign}(V_{ab})$ having an opposite logical value. While the control voltage signal V_{ab} is the positive value, the lower arm switching unit 21b of the second bridge 20 is turned on, the upper arm switching unit 21a of the second bridge 20 is maintained off, and the upper and low arm switching units 11a and 11b of the first bridge 10 are alternately turned on and turned off.

[0060] While output power is supplied to the load 1, the power supply determines a magnitude and a sign of the control voltage signal V_{ab} controlling the output power, maintains the switching units of one of the first bridge 10 and of the second bridge 20, respectively, to be on and off, and alternately turns on and turns off the switching units of the remaining one of the

first bridge 10 and the second bridge 20 according to the positive and negative signs of the control voltage signal V_{ab} . Thus, a switching method reduces a number of the switching times approximately in half compared with a conventional switching method, to enable a reduction in power loss.

[0061] Further, as the number of the switching times is reduced, a size of the heat sink cooling the switching units 11a, 11b, 21a and 21b is reduced. Accordingly, cost is reduced and control efficiency is improved.

[0062] As described above, a power supply and a control method thereof capable of reducing power loss and a cost of the power supply, and of improving a control efficiency by reducing the number of switching times of an inverting part is provided.

[0063] Although an embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made in the embodiment without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention, the scope of which is defined in the appended claims and their equivalents.